

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Naval Vessels Sighted in Stolpe Bank Area	DATE DISTR.	29 June 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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SOURCE EVALUATION IS DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [] two naval vessels were observed approximately on position N 55-00, E 16-30. Observation was from a distance of three sea miles. Vessels came from the area west of Stolpe Bank on course ENE. The speed was slow to occasional stopping.
2. The first vessel is described as follows: older type. One high, round, vertical stack. Almost vertical, slight flaring bow. High freeboard, flush deck. In front of the stack was one high cylinder-like turret-shaped structure, approximately one and one-half times the stack's height. There was one mast on top of the turret.
3. The second vessel is described as follows: One, possibly two stacks. Tripod mast on stern edge of bridge. Long distance between bridge and stack. Observer inclined to think that one stack mounted immediately astern of the mast. Long forecandle and long stern. Gun mount: one turret or shield fore and aft.

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Comments:

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1. The description closely resembles that of the Soviet ships TSEL and VISTREL (ex-German HESSEN and BEITZ), a radio-controlled artillery target ship and its control ship. There is a strong probability that these vessels are the same, although the place of observation is unusual. They were last observed operating in the area of Liepaja, Latvia, USSR, during the fall of 1949.
2. The two vessels are presumably participating in exercises, as they have been observed in the area of Swinoujscie (Swinemünde). They have not, however, been observed with these artillery exercises. The presence of a number of MTBs, however, may suggest the possibility of torpedo firing against the target vessel.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")